

which is the largest not for profit organization working with and for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in New York State and is a member of The Arc of the United States.

A courageous group of family members and friends of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities founded The Arc of Schuyler on May seventh, in the year nineteen hundred and seventy-eight. From modest beginnings it has become the most comprehensive provider of support in Schuyler County to hundreds of people with developmental disabilities and their families.

The Arc of Schuyler is an advocacy agency that believes all people have the fundamental moral, civic, and constitutional rights to live, learn, and work in safe and respectful communities of their choosing without prejudice. A volunteer Board of Directors including relatives of persons with a developmental disability and dedicated community leaders continue to provide their experience and insight to ensure the rights of people with developmental disabilities.

The Arc of Schuyler urges all citizens to give full support to the efforts empowering people with intellectual and developmental disabilities so that they may live full and productive lives of inclusion in our communities.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to commend The Arc of Schuyler upon the occasion of its fortieth anniversary in the year two thousand eighteen.

CELEBRATING DEDE TERNS- THORPE OF GREENE COUNTY

HON. JOHN J. FASO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2018

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound respect that I rise today to recognize and celebrate Dede Terns-Thorpe of Haines Falls for being named Greene County's 2018 Senior Citizen of the Year. This is a designation reserved for the outstanding individual in Greene County who has continuously and selflessly gone above and beyond to make a positive impact on the community.

From her time working as a nurse and for the U.S. postal service, to her volunteerism delivering meals to her neighbors and gardening, Dede has been dedicated to the Greene County community and has shown compassion and care in all that she does. As the town historian of Hunter, Dede has made great contributions to the history of the area, unearthing the wonders, stories, and heroes of Greene County's past.

I am grateful for Dede's many years of dedicated service to Greene County, to the 19th District, and to New York State. I wish her the best as she continues to preserve the region's history and I am thankful for her many contributions to the community.

AMBER COOPER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Amber Cooper for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Amber Cooper received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Amber Cooper is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Amber Cooper for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

SHARING STUDENTS' "MARCH FOR OUR LIVES" REMARKS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2018

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on May 9, I came to the Floor and spoke about the March For Our Lives on March 24 and the nine extraordinarily poised students in Morristown, New Jersey, who spoke at the rally there, which I attended. I included in the RECORD remarks by Nile Burch. I hope my colleagues will read them and internalize the sense of fear in which our nation's students are living every day—and our responsibility as Members of Congress to do something to address this crisis of gun violence.

MARCH FOR OUR LIVES' REMARKS

(By Nile Burch)

Hello and good morning! My name is Nile Birch and I am from Morristown High School.

I would like to begin by thanking Ms. Bosrock for this incredible opportunity. I appreciate all of her support and help in making this possible. I am so proud to be representing my African-American and social activism club, Melanin Minds, at the march today. Melanin Minds consists of a group of united and ethnically diverse individuals dedicated towards raising awareness within our communities. Encouraging change is exactly what our club is about, and I am honored to speak to everyone today about the issue of gun violence on behalf of our president, Bella Simon. So why should I take such a vested interest in this issue?

I can understand how it is a Constitutional right for people to own guns. But, as we've all come to realize, there is a lot of gray area in that. Nevertheless, that area should never include questioning public safety. If people choose to own guns, that is their prerogative, but in no way shape or form should their interest threaten the lives of anyone or anything else. Yet, the trouble I think we all experience is that the current laws we have are nowhere strict enough to make people feel at ease. Then again, there is a fine

line between feeling 'at ease' and feeling 'safe.' We do not need politicians to acknowledge what happened in past and recent school shootings. We need them to look at Columbine, Sandy Hook, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, and countless others as an incentive to want to prevent more shootings from ever happening again. In simpler terms, we need to emphasize that it's okay to recognize what happened in the past as long as we use those events to carve out a pathway towards our future! To truly understand what it feels like to be safe, we must first realize what it is like to live in fear. As an African-American male, living in fear means wearing a hoodie and being scared to walk to the store for some skittles or an Arizona Iced Tea, or wanting to sell CDs. What I am saying is that having this angst festering inside of me every day is my reality, but it does not have to be yours too.

School shootings? Children in school. A place where students go to learn, make friends, and find themselves as human beings. A place parents can drop their kids and feel safe in knowing that their precious children are protected at all costs. It isn't true. It doesn't exist. And that, my friends, is the sad reality of today. Why we are here. Why we care. We must stand together so that every single one of us can feel safe. You guys might be wondering 'what does he mean by starting to make a difference, how can I, a high school student, have any influence?' Let me tell you guys a brief story to make it clearer.

I remember being on the playground and looking up at those tall monkey bars towering above the field. They seemed so big and tall, like something incredible. Of course, to any seven-year-old, climbing it seems a feat worth trying. But, no matter how hard I tried it was still physically impossible for my short arms to reach the highest bar. I tell this story because on this day, March 24, 2018, our end goal may seem impossible to reach. It may seem so idealistic that we doubt seeing such immense change within the course of our lifetime. However, I am confident that meeting our goal can become a reality by taking the right steps to get there. I didn't finish my childhood story. As I started to climb the bars, I had multiple encounters with failure and defeat by slipping off of the handlebars. Enacting change to the issue of gun violence is no different. We have and will continue to encounter obstacles that will try to prevent us from succeeding. In order to overcome these difficulties, it is imperative that we lobby Congress to change the gun laws to ensure that only those who are able to handle the responsibility of owning a gun can do so. It is also paramount that organizations such as the NRA accept the consequences of prioritizing profit over life. I remain optimistic that we'll be able to do this because, despite having fallen multiple times on the wood chips, I persevered and, yes, eventually reached the top. The feeling at the top of those monkey bars was one I'll never forget. For a brief moment in time I felt like the king of the world with nothing to stop me. I made my way down, and yes, fell again, but this time it was worth it. I have no doubt that this movement will feel the same way when we make strides. The obstacles will never truly go away, but we will enact laws, start protests and incite conversations that will make these obstacles irrelevant.

Piece by piece we will inspire other students to gain the courage to stand up for what they believe in. Piece by piece we will show youth that they have a voice and that it does matter. And piece by piece we will once again feel safe enough to walk our school hallways without feeling as if that is the last day we'll walk at all.